

News Briefs

Information Awareness Training

All Columbus AFB network users must complete the 2006 Information Awareness training by Wednesday. Computer users may access the training by visiting <https://columbusweb/> and clicking on the 2006 Information Awareness Training link.

Cell phone usage

Vehicle operators on a Department of Defense installation and operators of government owned vehicles will not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device. The wearing of portable headphones, earphones or other listening devices (except for hands-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited.

USAF Leadership Award

AFPC is currently requesting nominations for the 2006 Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award. This award recognizes the accomplishments of officers and enlisted leaders who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership in the performance of their duties and the conduct of their lives. Nominations may be submitted in the following categories: Senior Officer, Junior Officer, Senior Enlisted and Junior Enlisted. For more information, call the Military Personnel Flight at Ext. 2626.

CMUSD Lottery

The Columbus Municipal School District is conducting a 2006 to 2007 K-4 School Choice Lottery. Applications are available at the Family Support Center. For more information, call 241-7400.

Inside



FEATURE 9

Two chiefs find acceptance and opportunity in the Air Force

Pilots scope out American culture

Senior Airman Cecilia Rodriguez
14th Flying Training Wing

Twenty-one international pilots in training at Columbus AFB paid a visit to Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 18 through Sunday for a glimpse into their host nation's history and culture.

Maj. William Hendrickson, Columbus AFB international liaison officer, organized the trip to expose the international military members to a side of American culture not locally available to them in Columbus.

Side by side, seasoned and novice pilots from countries such as Tunisia, Senegal, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Romania, Bangladesh, Singapore and Botswana toured Atlanta's CNN Headquarters building, Cyclorama, Jimmy Carter Museum and the Lockheed Martin facility in Marietta, Ga.

Upon arriving in Atlanta, the group climbed the world's largest free-standing escalator at CNN Headquarters before receiving a behind-the-scenes look at one of the nation's leading news production teams.

Saturday morning began with an innovative Civil War history lesson via the Cyclorama – a large cylindrical painting dictating the Battle of Atlanta, complete with foreground figures, music, sound effects and narrative. Measuring 50 feet high, 400 feet long and weighing more than 9,000 pounds, the Cyclorama is currently the largest oil painting in the world.

Afterward, the international students spent Saturday afternoon browsing a vast collection of memorabilia from former president Jimmy Carter's early life in Plains, Ga.; his term as Governor of Georgia; his term as President of the United States; and his years following government service.



Senior Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Columbus AFB student pilot 2nd Lt. Nuno Goulart of Portugal gets acquainted with a mock news anchor desk at CNN Headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

The weekend trip concluded the next day at the Lockheed Martin facility, where the group received F-16, F-22 and C-130J program overviews from senior business development members and toured production lines for the F-22 and C-130J aircraft.

Considering some international stu-

dents are in training at Columbus without a mode of transportation, the trip was as refreshing as it was educational.

"I really appreciated the trip," said 2nd Lt. Cliff Manyuni of Botswana.

See **ATLANTA**, Page 3

Spring brings greater potential for severe weather in Columbus

People should know what actions to take to protect themselves, their family, pets and property against severe weather.

Anyone can recognize severe weather and develop a plan to be ready when threatening weather approaches.

Thunderstorms increase from two thunderstorm days per month in January to 13 thunderstorm days a month in July. Columbus AFB has recorded wind speeds associated with thunderstorms in excess of 58 mph in every month of the year. February through April are the most likely months of the year for severe weather events.

Thunderstorms produce tornadoes, lightning, strong winds, flash floods and hail. Tornadoes cause an average of 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries each year nationwide. They can produce wind speeds in excess of 250 mph, measure one mile wide and stay on the ground over 50 statute miles.

Lightning causes an average of 80 fatalities, 300 injuries each year and occurs with all thunderstorms.

Each year, lightning strikes the Earth 20 million times, and the air near a lightning strike is heated to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit — hotter than the surface of the sun!

Remember the 30/30 lightning safety rule: Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder; and, stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

Strong thunderstorm winds can exceed 100 mph and can cause as much damage as a tornado. A prime example of this was the infamous Feb. 16, 2001 severe thunderstorm incident

that caused extensive damage to downtown Columbus.

Columbus AFB recorded 71 mph as the thunderstorms moved through the base and winds downtown were estimated in excess of 100 mph.

Flash floods, while not a major problem at Columbus AFB, are the No. 1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms, with more than 140 fatalities each year. Stay away from high water, storm drains, ditches, ravines or culverts. When water moves swiftly, even six inches of water can knock someone off their feet. If anyone is near flood waters, they need to stop, turn around and go another way.

Hail causes more than \$1 billion in crop and property damage each year. Large stones fall at speeds faster than 100 mph.

While hail is not that common of an occurrence in the Southeastern states, Columbus AFB has recorded numerous cases of one-quarter to three-quarter inch hail.

Whether listening to the radio or a television broadcasts, NOAA Weather radio or receiving weather information from the base weather station, remember that a "watch" means that the potential exists for the weather event such as hail and strong winds; but a "warning" means that the phenomena has been observed or occurrence is imminent.

The best defense against severe weather is being knowledgeable, paying attention to warning signs of severe weather and seeking appropriate shelter when the time comes.(Courtesy of the 14th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight)

STAR BLAZER

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the wing public affairs office for winning the Air Education and Training Comand Air Force Public Affairs Director's Special Achievement Award's Planned Single Event for 2005.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, **34 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed** worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.

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SILVER WINGS

How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs
555 Seventh St. Suite 203
Columbus AFB, MS 39710
Commercial: (662) 434-7068
DSN: 742-7068
Fax: (662) 434-7009
E-mail: silverwings@columbus.af.mil

Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Wilson
14th Flying Training Wing
Commander

Mr. Rick Johnson
Public Affairs Chief

Tech. Sgt. Keith Houin
NCOIC

Airman Alyssa Wallace
Editor

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

ATLANTA

(Continued from Page 1)

“It was so educational and fun because my feelings of home sickness were resolved,” he said. “Meeting with other people who feel the same way and sharing our experiences really helped.”

The weekend’s venture also served as a networking tool among the students. Many fine-tuned their newly-adopted English vocabulary and also took advantage of the opportunity to learn about their intercontinental neighbors’ training policies and military service.

“Before the trip, I never had the chance to speak with the other international students in a group setting like that; and I don’t think I would have if it wasn’t for the trip,” said 2nd Lt. Keith Chiang of Singapore. “This was an excellent opportunity for our international student body to get to know each other and see more of the country to learn something new.”

(Editor’s note: *Columbus AFB currently supports international student pilots through the Foreign Military Sales and Aviation Leadership Programs. The purpose of these programs is to promote cultural and informational exchanges to develop mutual cooperation between the United States and participating nations to build relationships for the future.*

A vital part of this initiative is the student sponsor program. Through this program, international students are paired with local civilian or military families who assist in familiarizing the students with American culture and the local area. The international student office is currently in search of sponsors for students.

There are no formal requirements for being a sponsor, but the best sponsor/student relationships occur with sponsors who are able to invite the students into their homes or take them to family picnics, community events, on sightseeing and shopping trips, and other ordinary activities. The students benefit by learning about life in America as it really occurs, while sponsors gain rare insight into different cultures and act as informal U.S. ambassadors. Those interested in participating in this program should call Major Hendrickson at Ext. 7210.)

Straight Talk Line

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better.

Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may be dropped off at the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724.

People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main Web site at www.columbus.af.mil. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

DUI status

“Don’t Drink and Drive”

Last DUI: Feb. 11, 2006

Days since last DUI: 13

Unit: 14th Civil Engineer Squadron



And the total is...



Airman Alyssa Wallace
Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, receives on-the-job training from Loretta Hollivay, Columbus AFB’s base exchange customer service supervisor, during his visit to the store Wednesday. Colonel Wilson will be visiting different squadrons during the Columbus AFB immersion.

Medal elimination explained

The Air Force Uniform Board announced Feb. 6 that the Good Conduct Medal will no longer be awarded.

The Air Force director of Airman development and sustainment recently explained the reasons behind this decision.

“The quality of our enlisted personnel today is so high, we expect good conduct from our Airmen,” said Brig. Gen Robert R. Allardice. “It begged the question, ‘Why do we have a Good Conduct Medal?’”

“Having a medal for good conduct is almost to say we don’t expect Airmen to do well, but if they’re good we will give them a medal,” he said. “It’s kind of insulting in our Air Force today.”

One must look at the history of why the medal was created in the 1960s. The military was using the draft and involved in the Vietnam War. The Air Force didn’t have any other method to recognize Airmen. Today, the Air Force Achievement Medal recognizes outstanding Airmanship.

“When we looked at that history it was clear that the Good Conduct Medal has outlived its usefulness,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray.

“Today’s all-volunteer force is committed to serving honorably, and good conduct is what we expect from every Airman -- officer and enlisted.”

“We live by our core values,” Chief Murray said. “When members of our service stray from those values, they do themselves and all Airmen a disservice. When that happens, commanders have the tools they need to evaluate the situation and the individual’s worthiness for continued service.

“If a commander deems their conduct does not warrant discharge, then they remain a valuable Airman to our Air Force, and we expect them to continue to serve honorably,” he said.

General Allardice said that it is the uniform, not the Good Conduct Medal, that represents what Airmen are all about.

“In today’s Air Force, our Airmen understand that the uniform they wear represents good conduct,” he said.

Airmen who have previously earned the Good Conduct Medal are still authorized to wear it. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News.)*

Airmen need remember AF core values

Maj. Douglas Hare
14th Flying Training Wing

You all know “Service Before Self” as one of the Air Force core values, and you all have your own ideas of what it means to you. As you entered this service, it was instilled into your very soul that the profession of arms is something unique and thus you accepted a sacred trust from the American people. You have sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. In the Air Force this is “Service Before Self.” The Navy and Marines call it “Courage” and the Army defines it as “Selfless Service, Personal Courage and Loyalty.”

Service Before Self is a core value that says “professional duties take precedence over personal desires.” Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said, “Service Before Self begins with duty, but it means more. It means that, in our Air Force, as we fly and fight in war and peace, going above and beyond the call of duty is not the exception – it is the rule.”

When we spend time away from the mission to pursue personal desires or take care of our families, doesn’t the mission suffer? Are we putting self before service? On the other hand, if we go TDY because we are putting Service Before Self, do your personal desires and family suffer?

In my last assignment I was the Chief of

the Exercise and Contingency Plans Office. I was directly in charge of 14 personnel, numerous operational war plans and a \$6 million exercise program. The area of responsibility covered 44 countries, 30 territories and 16 time zones. Our exercise program deployed a special operation group of more than 800 personnel, 14 times a year — not to mention typhoon evacuations and real world deployments on top of our day-to-day missions.

Our operations tempo was high and this required me to put Service Before Self on several occasions to accomplish the mission. I missed my wedding anniversary for four years straight, my children’s birthdays and several important personal or family events. I was fortunate to have a commander who understood our operations tempo and gave us the well deserved time off. It may not have been the quantity that I wished for, but I ensured that it was quality time spent with my family. The mission was always accomplished because of the core value, Excellence in All We Do and the sacrifices made by all.

However, nothing can replace missing your child’s birthday or a hug from a spouse when you’ve had a bad day. You

must learn to prioritize and balance your professional duties with the responsibility

“Service Before Self is a core value that says ‘professional duties take precedence over personal desires.’”

to your family and the desires to pursue personal goals. Take a moment and spend quality time wherever and whenever possible when you are away from your official duties. If that means taking your children to the library, going for a walk with your spouse or pursuing your hobbies, make every moment worth it. Every

time I am TDY, it makes me recognize the importance of family and I cherish every moment I get with them as often as I can.

We must all make the sacrifice to live by the core value of Service Before Self — it is part of who we are, and the Air Force relies on your sacrifice and commitment. To put Service Before Self requires you to have an understanding with your family so they know why you have to make the sacrifices you do. When you have to tell your six-year-old why you can’t be at the soccer game, put it in simple terms that they will understand. Tell them that you have a very important job and that many people rely on you to help accomplish their jobs.

Compare that to the soccer game and how they help their team win the game. By doing this, you are teaching your children that all sacrifices aren’t bad and are instill-

ing in them a moral value they will apply for the rest of their lives. As a supervisor, you must allow your people to balance professional duties with time spent pursuing personal desires and quality family time. You, your personnel and unit will be much better for it.

Gen. Hal Hornburg, former commander of Air Education and Training Command, said, “Service Before Self does not deny that you have self-interests. There’s nothing wrong with having personal goals and a desire to be the best. We all have personal goals and ambitions, and it’s important to take steps to realize those goals and ambitions.”

We put Service Before Self because it is critical to mission success in our armed services. It ensures that we secure our American society for future generations to inherit.

Service Before Self doesn’t mean that family or personal desires come second to the military, but there needs to be an appropriate balance between both.

Whether you are a supervisor or subordinate, you need to take the time to recognize the importance of personal and family time balanced with the mission needs. In the end, it sets us up for successful mission accomplishment. After all, the “pursuit of happiness” and the support of your loved ones significantly impacts how effectively you serve.

Deployed Airmen recognized as daily heroes

Capt. Charles Montoya
14th Flying Training Wing

Remembering my formative years is not too hard a task. Growing up like any other American boy, I watched my favorite superhero on television: The Caped Crusader. The Dark Knight. Batman himself.

Even though I grew up like others, I limited how much I was like everyone else. I was not as much of a fanatic as other boys. Yes, I had a die cast Batmobile that shot red pellets at the ‘bad guys.’ I did have a Batman Halloween costume, but I only wore it on special occasions. I never really wanted to watch Batman in a costume. However, if Batman underoos had been around, I probably would have worn them and watched my superhero.

Now, the Batman I grew up with was not the Christian Bale who starred in “Batman Begins,” nor was it Michael Keaton. My Batman was Adam West. Anytime my Batman fought bad guys, a pop-up “blam!”, “biff” or other interesting cartoon balloon would come up on the screen. It was a parody of Batman, but as a kid it did not matter. I knew who my hero was.

Going beyond Batman, we all have had heroes in our

lives. It could have been one of the superheroes out of the comic books. Your hero might have been one out of a television show. You might have had an athlete as your hero. Yet, how do we define a hero?

I see a hero as one who protects the liberties of others. This hero goes to far away places to make sure our liberties and the liberties of others are maintained.

Right in our midst, we find people who have traveled over to Southwest Asia, to the Pacific, and other parts of the world in support of our Global War on Terror. Although they would not identify themselves as heroes — as most heroes do not — they are indeed heroes.

We all understood the agreement we made with our nation when we joined this exclusive force of men and women. We joined the world’s greatest Air Force.

In my 23 years of service, I have seen many people deploy. In 1983, I arrived at my first duty station. I was given an assignment to Hahn AB, Germany. I arrived at base as a young Airman First class. I arrived shortly after members of my security police squadron redeployed from Khartoum, Sudan. This was my first “expeditionary” experience.

It was not until 1999 that I deployed to Istres AB,

France. It was not a typical deployment location.

However, I was deployed as a part of an Air Expeditionary Force tasking.

In 2002 I deployed to the desert of Kuwait. Here, I found out what it was like to be in the desert. Of course, I received the full effect by arriving in June and departing in September. Never have I been so hot in my entire life; but, I understood what it meant to be a part of this team: expeditionary.

In my deployments, I have missed my daughter’s first Christmas, an anniversary, my wife’s birthday, family holidays and other significant events.

We all know that as we deploy, we must sacrifice a part of our lives in order to protect the liberties of others.

One of the ways we can contribute to the community is to welcome home our returning personnel. The Integrated Delivery System Team is sponsoring a Welcome Home Celebration at the Columbus Club Monday at 4:15 p.m. in the Columbus Club’s Ball Room to honor them and their service to our country. We all understand that they sacrificed a part of their lives in order to deploy. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

View From the Top

Airmen helping Airmen: The 33rd annual AFAF

Gen. William R. Looney III
AETC commander



Our greatest privilege as Airmen is to care for our own, and the Air Force Assistance Fund is a tremendous opportunity to put that privilege into practice. This year's "Commitment to Caring" campaign runs through May 5. During the campaign, we'll be asking Airmen to contribute to any of four Air Force-related charities. This is quite simply Airmen helping Airmen.

You don't need to look any farther than the devastating aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to understand the benefits the AFAF provides our Air Force community. When our people needed rapid assistance — the AFAF's charitable organizations were ready and able to help.

Last year's campaign powerfully high-

lighted the importance of this tradition of caring. In 2005, our Airmen exceeded the AFAF's campaign goal by contributing more than \$7.3 million. AETC contributed nearly \$1.2 million and received over \$4.4 million in assistance, contributing almost half of that amount to our people in the aftermath of Hurricanes

Katrina and Rita.

The AFAF was established to provide an annual fundraising campaign for the four official Air Force charities that help Air Force people with emergency aid, with educational needs, and with support of a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance. Now in its 33rd year, the AFAF directly benefits active-duty, Reserve, Guard, and retired Airmen and their fami-

lies by donating 100 percent of all contributions to the following venerable organizations:

— The Air Force Aid Society provides Airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, education assistance, and an array of base-level community enhancement programs. Base Family Support Centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements. Information is also available online at <http://www.afas.org/>.

— The Air Force Enlisted Village near Eglin AFB was founded in 1967 to provide a safe, secure, and dignified place for indigent widows of retired Air Force enlisted personnel. More information is available at www.afenlistedwidows.org.

— The Air Force Village in San Antonio provides excellent retirement living, with access to continuing health care for military officers who served honorably and their spouses, with priority to retired Air Force

officer widows and widowers in need of financial assistance. The Air Force Village website is www.airforcevillages.com.

— The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation helps widows of all Air Force retirees, both officers and enlisted, with financial grants of assistance. The LeMay Foundation Web site is www.lemay-foundation.org/.

The First Command received an overwhelming outpouring of support from last year's AFAF. Now, we have an opportunity to give back.

It's easy to specify which charities you want to support and all donations are tax deductible. Please take a look at their web sites and give what you can.

Thank you all for your commitment to supporting our Air Force and our fellow Airmen—past and present—and their families in times of greatest need. Let's make the 2006 AFAF campaign the best yet for AETC and our Air Force!



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IF YOU — OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW —
ARE THINKING ABOUT SUICIDE.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY

Wingman's corner: Don't make 'million dollar mistake'

Mario Mercado
14th Flying Training Wing

Last year, 17,013 people died in alcohol-related crashes, with 1,181 of them between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve; 2,282 were between the ages of 16 to 20 and 2,428 were between 21 to 24.

Amazingly enough, a lot of people believe that they can hold their own. Yes, tolerance is built up over time. If you've been drinking a couple of drinks per night for a couple of years, guess what? You've built up tolerance.

Regardless of the drink, all alcohol is a central nervous system depressant. That means that if you stop and have a couple of drinks on the way home from work, depending on your weight, you may be drunk after two drinks. The National Commission Against Drunk Driving chart reads that a 12 oz. can of beer, a 5 oz. glass of wine, a one and a half shot of liquor or one container of sweet flavored alcoholic beverage all equal one serving or "one drink" of alcohol. It takes your body approximately one hour to metabolize one drink, thus, according to the NCADD Web site, if you stop and have two on the way home, you should not drive for at least three hours to ensure the alcohol is out of your abody.

Let's get to the point. The "million dollar mistake" is easy to figure out. Base pay for a Major with eight years in service \$4,977.60 per month and \$3,332.40 per month for an E-7 with more than 14 years in service. If either member receive a DWI their career is basically over and they may be put out of the military. Let's figure the money lost.

A major at eight years is about 33 years old (25 at entry). A master sergeant with 14 years is approximately the same age (19 at entry). If the major made it to 20 years, he would have made \$716,744.40 at the current base pay only without figuring in pay raises. The master sergeant would have made \$239,932.80. After 20 years of service, the major would be 45 and the master sergeant 39. If we expect the average life span to be 72 years old and figure in the current retired pay rate for both servicemembers the figure equate to a million dollar mistake. And you thought the fines, lawyer fees and court costs at an average of \$4,000 was bad... Well, perhaps a word to the wise is sufficient. Think about it! The cost of a pay phone call is about about 50-cents. The cost of a career and all the friends you'll make throughout your years serving in the Air Force, coupled with your retirement -- Priceless! Please don't drink and drive or ride with anyone who has been drinking.

Two chiefs find acceptance, opportunity in Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Kelley Stewart
100th Air Refueling Wing

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England -- He grew up in the South when segregation was the law of the land.

He remembers seeing "Whites only" signs and attending George Washington Carver School, an all-black school, until desegregation was enforced in 1969 and he was bused to the "white school."

His family also had a cross burned in their yard. He remembers his father helping search for three civil-rights workers who were murdered near his hometown of Philadelphia, Miss. The three men, trying to register black voters in the state, were arrested and turned over to the Ku Klux Klan. They were then beaten and murdered.

Now, Chief Master Sgt. Angelo Wilson, 47, is the command chief master sergeant for the 100th Air Refueling Wing.

While Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Richardson didn't grow up around such overt racism in Denver, he, too, has felt its sting. The 352nd Special Operations Group command chief master sergeant remembers people calling out racial slurs as they drove by or name-calling during fights at school.

Chief Wilson joined the Air Force while attending college because he wanted to do something different and his father and brother had both served in the armed forces.

Chief Richardson grew up with a lot of military "brats" from Lowry Air Force Base and Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver. The 45-year-old chief said he admired their lifestyles, the impression of equal opportunity and the educational opportunities, so he decided to join.

Chief Richardson said to get his mother to sign his enlistment paperwork, he promised her he'd get his education. He has since completed two associates' degrees, one bachelor's degree and one master's degree.

Both chiefs agree they felt there was more equal opportunity in the military than in the civilian sector when they joined.

"As a young black man, I was able to enter into a world where I would be evaluated on what I brought to the table versus the color of my skin," Chief Richardson said.

He pointed to the fact his friends' fathers were Army sergeant majors and Air Force senior master sergeants. "They were doing pretty well," he said.

Basic training was the first time Chief Wilson experienced being treated differently than he was used to growing up.

"For the first time in my life, I felt the people in charge didn't view me as a black person. They just viewed me as part of the team," he said.

Both chiefs remember there not being a lot of minorities in the Air Force when they joined. However,



U.S. Air Force Photo

Chief Master Sgt. Angelo Wilson, 100th Air Refueling Wing command chief master sergeant, chats with Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Richardson, 352nd Special Operations Group command chief master sergeant, in the 100th ARW conference room about general issues before the wing stand-up meeting Feb. 1. Chiefs Wilson and Richardson came from very different backgrounds, but both saw the opportunities the Air Force provided. Both made the most of those opportunities and worked their ways up to the highest enlisted rank.

over the years that has changed — especially in the officer corps.

"The biggest change I've seen is in the officer corps," Chief Wilson said. "The first black wing commander I saw was in 2001."

Chief Richardson said as an airman first class he rarely saw a black squadron commander and it was quite rare to see a black wing commander.

"I would do a double take when seeing a black major or lieutenant colonel, and then they were usually aircrew," he said.

Discrimination, whether overt or covert, is also not tolerated in the Air Force. The military takes these types of complaints very seriously.

"It won't be tolerated," Chief Richardson said. "I worked for a commander who made it clear it wouldn't be tolerated. I think that's great. Acceptance now is less and less an issue."

The military can do nothing but benefit from these advances in society, the chiefs said. Both chiefs referred to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. One line in this speech says: "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"When I go back to my home town today, there is such a vast difference," Chief Wilson said. "I think the

Air Force as a whole benefits from that because the young people coming in don't bring a lot of prejudices that we brought in or the experiences that we brought (in with us)."

Chief Richardson believes young minorities today should expect to be challenged more on their abilities to lead and succeed in the Air Force.

"Whether they can do it isn't a question," Chief Richardson said. "There will be no hesitation in putting them in those (leadership) positions."

Chief Wilson said he thinks the Air Force does a very good job of teaching diversity, even though that hasn't always been the case. This is important to Chief Wilson because the Air Force isn't manned to the levels it was when he joined the Air Force.

"We not only train people — we enforce it. We stand behind our supervisors and say, 'This is how you treat people.' You don't use your stripes to boss people around," he said. "We expect you to put your prejudices aside and get the most out of your people. The only way to do that is to foster an atmosphere of acceptance."

Chief Richardson feels to foster acceptance and understanding, supervisors need to get out from behind their desks and get to know their people.

"We need to look at making more of an attempt to add a personal touch," he said.

Abra-cadabra



Pam Wickham

Dustin Terrell helps magician “Baluni” with a magic trick at the family fun night at the Columbus Club Feb. 16.

Shrimp feast buffet: The Columbus Club offers this all-you-can-eat shrimp buffet from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Cost is \$11.95 for members and \$14.95 for nonmembers. Cost for ages 6 to 12 is \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Ages 5 and younger eat free. Menu includes peel and eat shrimp, shrimp creole with white rice, golden fried shrimp, Carla’s seafood gumbo, shrimp fettuccini with creamy alfredo sauce, baked white fish filet with herbed bread crumbs, grilled breast of chicken with sauteed peppers, garden green fresh salad with chilled dressings, broccoli with hollandaise sauce, vegetable medley, oven roasted new potatoes, New Orleans dirty rice, oven baked rolls, iced tea, coffee, lemonade and assorted desserts. Call Ext. 2490 for more information.

Mardi Gras party: This event will be held from 8 to 11 p.m. March 3 at the Columbus Club with Mardi Gras games, prizes and assorted finger foods. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

Orlando Spring Break trip: Register at the information,

ticket and travel office for this trip to Orlando, Fla., March 26 to March 30. Cost is \$415 for one person, \$265 each for two people in the same room, \$215 each for three people in one room and \$190 each for four people in one room. Cost includes transportation, four nights lodging and shuttle service while in Orlando. Discount Disney tickets are available at the ITT office. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

Lunch buffets: The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Tuesday’s menu is new and includes meat loaf, Southern fried pork chops, veggies and homemade apple pie. Wednesday’s menu features a southern comfort buffet with fried chicken, smoked brisket and cobbler. Thursday is the backyard barbecue and Friday’s menu is a bonsai buffet with teriyaki chicken, beef vegetable stir fry, fried rice and egg rolls. Cost is \$5.50 per person and includes iced tea or lemonade. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

Crafts classes: The arts and crafts center’s upcoming crafts classes for March feature seasonal projects. Adult classes are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Upcoming classes include a St. Patrick’s welcome sign, a mosaic patio stone, a picket fence Easter door hanging and an Easter bunny door hanging.

The youth classes are offered Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Upcoming classes include straw hat leprechaun, a St. Patrick’s door hanging, a personalized pillow case, a bunny bell necklace and a wooden bunny.

A display of all projects is available in the arts and crafts lobby. Participants must register at least four days prior to the class date. For more information, call Ext. 7836.

Parent/teen outdoor adventure camp: The youth center is accepting applications for this program open to families of active-duty Air Force, Air Force reserve, their spouses and dependents, ages 12 to 14. The camp, lodging and meals are free. If selected, the participants must pay for their own transportation to the camp. Camp is June 25 to July 2 in Colorado Springs, Co. The week-long program is focused on creating a bonding experience for families through participation in various outdoor and indoor activities.

Each person must be able to participate in a high and low ropes course, rock climbing, hiking, horseback riding, white water rafting and more. Deadline for submitting an application is April 5 at the youth center. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

ImageMakers Photography contest: The youth center is accepting entries for this national Boys and Girls Club sponsored contest until March 10. Entries will be judged in four age categories: ages 9 or younger, ages 10 to 12, ages 13 to 15 and ages 16 to 18. Pictures

must have been taken within the last year. Photographs must be entered in one of the following categories: color process, black and white process; alternative process such as pinhole cameras, polaroid transfers, photo screen printing, photo etching and photographs; digital and photo essay. Photographs must not exceed 8-by-11 inches and must be matted. A negative must accompany each photograph (submit a diskette for digital entries). For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Memphis Grizzlies honor military families: Military families may enter a drawing for the opportunity to attend a 2005-2006 Memphis Grizzlies home game by picking up an application at the information, ticket and travel office. The winner will receive passes to a game for up to 10 family members, two parking passes and a \$10 concessions voucher per person.

The chosen servicemember must have been deployed to the Middle East during the last four years for a period of no less than six months as a member of the U.S. armed forces. Eligible applications will remain in the drawing for every home game so families only need apply one time. The Grizzlies Foundation staff will give winning families at least one week’s notice before the game to coordinate plans to attend. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

Quick shot bingo: The club offers this new program during lunch at the Columbus Club, during the Boss and Buddy night Thursdays night in the Landing and from 5 to 6 p.m. Fridays at the Enlisted Lounge. Cost is \$1 per card and pays from \$3 to \$1,000 for winning combinations. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

Self-help car wash: There is a self-help car wash located behind the youth center on Ninth Street. Cost is \$1 for five minutes and customers may add a quarter for each additional minute before the time ends for an extended wash. For more information, call Ext. 7842.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Sunday:
9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass
Tuesday:
7 p.m. — RCIA

Protestant

Sunday:
9 a.m. — Adult and children’s
Sunday School
10:30 a.m. — Contemporary service at the services complex
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship service at the chapel sanctuary
Monday:
7 p.m. — Bible study fellowship
Wednesday:
11:30 a.m. — Lunchtime study
5 p.m. — Pot luck supper
6 p.m. — Video study
A Case for Kids
Pioneer Clubs
Thursday:
10 a.m. — Ladies Bible Study
For information, call Ext. 2500.

Family Support Center

(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)

Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Deployment Briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are held daily at 9 a.m. Family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Ext. 2974 or Ext. 2790.

Local employment

A workshop about employment opportu-

nities with local businesses, the 14th Services Division and the government is from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Resumes and other job applications will also be discussed.

Sponsorship training

A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors is at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Training includes the importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers.

Single Parents Group

All BLAZE TEAM members who are single parents are invited to attend a meeting at noon Wednesday at the Columbus Club Happy Lounge.

Smooth move

A workshop for relocating families is from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. March 7. Participants will learn what to expect from the travel management office, housing, military pay, legal, billeting, Tricare and the family support center.

Credit reports

Participants can learn how to obtain one free credit report from three major credit reporting agencies in the southeastern United States and learn what to look for on a report at 11 a.m. March 9.

Employment cover letters

A workshop demonstrating how to write cover employment letters, follow up letters and thank you letters to employers will be held at 9 a.m. March 1.

Base Notes

Stampin' Up!

A stampin’ up classes will be held at the base chapel annex from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Participants will make six professional quality hand-stamped projects, cards and gift items will be made for \$15. Anyone wishing to register must call 434-5076 no later than the today.

Columbus AFB Autocross

Come Drive your car like you always wanted to. The base autocross will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Strategic Air Command ramp. Any type of car or truck is allowed as long as it has four wheels and is in good mechanical condition. No experience is needed, and participants may participate on either or both days. Pre registration is highly encouraged at <http://www.mssc-ca.org>. Cost for Military and Sports Car

Club of America members is \$20 for one day, and \$35 for both days. Cost for non-military is \$30 for one day and \$50 for both. All cars must be taken to technical inspection between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Saturday. Racing begins at 10:30 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m. both days. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information, call 1st Lt. Todd Salzwedel at ext 2736 or e-mail Todd.Salzwedel@columbus.af.mil.

Columbus' Biggest Losers

The base Fitness and Health and Wellness Centers are sponsoring a Biggest Losers competition beginning Wednesday. Teams must sign up at the fitness center or HAWC by close of business today. The team that loses the most weight can win a three day and two night stay in one of three selected cities. For more information call Ext. 2772 or Ext. 2477.

COSC Fashion Show

The March Columbus Officers ‘Spouses’ Club Social will be held 6 p.m. March 14 at the Columbus Club. The menu will include baked cod and will be served at a cost of \$14. Columbus Club members receive a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. For reservations, please contact Jennifer Wood via email at woodtjig@cablone.net or call 425-6059 by noon March 9th.

Yard inspections

As a reminder, on random Wednesdays of each month, squadron and group commanders conduct yard inspections. There are at least two inspections every month, so residents are encouraged to have yards in inspection order every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. The family housing brochure, Columbus AFB Pamphlet 32-6002, includes the inspection standards and is available at the housing office. For more information, call the office at Ext. 7276.

Garage sales

On-base garage sales are only permitted the first Saturday of every month. Advertisements for sales are limited to yard signs or ads in the base paper only. Signs must be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. Displaying signs on utility poles and street signs is prohibited. Advertising yard sales in the local media, excluding the base newspaper, is also prohibited. People may locally advertise individual items for sale, such as automobiles, boats, washers, dryers or refrigerators. Columbus AFB housing areas are located on a federal installation and the civilian public may only enter a military installation on official business, open house functions or social visitations. Yard and carport sales do not fall within these criteria.

Which African American has had the biggest impact on your life?

“RUN DMC. They were the first to make hip hop a worldwide success. They were successful, and they paved the way for young black entrepreneurs in the music business.”



Senior Airman John Menendez
14th Flying Training Wing

“Martin Luther King, Jr. He influenced African Americans to do what hadn’t been done before. If it wasn’t for his philosophy, where would we be today?”



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Brown
14th Comptroller Squadron

“My chemistry professor at Troy University in Alabama. I wasn’t doing very well in his class at first, but with his help I ended up graduating No. 1 in the class.”



Carl Cooper
Construction Worker

“My mom and my dad. They taught me how to deal with everyday life situations, and taught me how to be patient understanding and trustworthy.”



Ethel Latham
14th Services Division

Double Exposure Exhibit: A free exhibit of award-winning photography from Alabama will be presented by the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County in the Bama Theatre's Junior League Gallery today in Tuscaloosa, Ala. For more information, call (205) 758-5195.

Crappie USA Qualifier Fishing Tournament: This tournament will be held at the Columbus Marina Saturday. For more information, call the Columbus Visitor's Bureau at (662) 329-1191.

Day of Dance for Heart Health: This event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Gloster Creek Village in Tupelo, Miss. The 2006 Day of Dance for Heart Health is a celebration of dance as a way to enjoy life and prevent heart disease, the No. 1 killer of American women. Dozens of dance demonstrations are scheduled throughout the morning. Styles will include belly dancing, hip-hop, line dance, ballroom dance, ethnic dance and more. Many will offer participants the opportunity to join in and learn something new. While taking a break from dancing, attendees can take advantage of screenings and education pertaining to heart health. Screenings include blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose,

women's heart disease risk, body mass index, stroke risk and more. Local cardiologists will also be on hand throughout the event. Participants can sample heart-healthy treats and register for door prizes.

MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers meet each month during the school year on the second and fourth Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for a social and guest speaker. Child care is provided onsite. For more information on the MOPS group, call 327-2010 or e-mail info@hopems.org.

Noon Tunes: This event will be held at the Trotter Convention Center Courtyard from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 16 with food and entertainment. For more information, call 325-6305.

Winter Jam 2006: This event will be held at the BancorpSouth Center in Tupelo, Miss., at 6 p.m. March 16 featuring the Newsboys, Toby Mac, NewSong, Zoegirl, Hawk Nelson, speaker David Nasser and a Sphere of Fear motorcycle stunt show. Cost is \$10. For more information, call (662) 841-6528.

Daily historic home tours: The public is invited to drop by or call the Mississippi Welcome Center or

Columbus Historic Foundation for schedules of historic homes open for tours. For admission or more information, call (800) 920-3533.

Community Volunteer Center: People in search of volunteer opportunities can contact the Community Volunteer Center at 327-0807, or visit the office at 501 Seventh St. North, Suite 5, in the Plaza Building.

American Indian Artifacts Museum: This museum is located in Columbus and holds Native American artifacts dating back hundreds and thousands of years. Tours are available to individuals or groups by appointment. For more information, call Byron and Alice Weeks at (662) 251-1125.

Exchange Club: The Exchange Club of Columbus meets at noon Thursdays at the Columbus Country Club. The organization is a community service group dedicated to programs and projects that aid in the prevention of child abuse. For more information, e-mail exchange clubofcolumbusms@yahoo.com.

For more event listings, visit www.columbusms.org, or www.tupelo.net.

BARGAIN LINE

w/matching and ottoman, \$200 OBO. entire set, \$50. Call (662) 369-6273 or 327-4595 or 574-7145.

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one) Home Transportation Miscellaneous Yard sales Pets

Print advertisement _____

Name _____

Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐ Other _____

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

The sooner you begin planning your future...



...the brighter it becomes

What is AFROTC?

AFROTC is a 2- to 4-year program that produces officers to serve on active duty in the Air Force for a 4-year commitment

What are the benefits of active duty?

- * \$38,000 starting salary
- * Free medical/dental coverage
- * 30 days vacation each year
- * 100% tuition assistance

Who can join?

Students who:

- * Are pursuing a college education
- * Have a 2.0 grade point average or higher
- * Are in good physical shape
- * Are U.S. citizens
- * Have high moral values

What scholarships are available?

- * In-College Scholarship Program: Competitive program for any major
- * College Scholarship Program: High school seniors only

To learn more, visit www.afrotc.com

For more information, contact Mississippi State University Detachment 425 at (662) 325-3810 or logon to www.msstate.edu/dept/afrotc/

Operation Winter Games -- Let the games begin



Photos by Master Sgt. Chance Babin

Capt. Mark Arzate skirts his way down the slopes during his slalom ride during Operation Winter Games. Captain Arzate is chief of airfield operations for Detachment 1, 401st Air Expeditionary Wing.

Air Force unit provides new ‘hoops’ for Philippines youth

CAMP NAVARRO, Philippines -- Airmen from the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron and Philippine soldiers came together Feb. 17 to build a basketball court for children here.

Shortly after arriving at the base from Hickam AFB, Hawaii Feb. 15 to participate in Exercise Balikatan 2006, Airmen noticed a group of children trying to repair a basketball court next to their

barracks.

Many of the Airmen are Filipino and were able to speak with the children in their native Tagalog -- the official language of the Philippines. The children struggled with the loose, crooked poles holding up the basketball hoops and after several failed attempts to fix the poles, the Airmen scored an idea.

A group of 17 Airmen bought supplies

to construct a new basketball court since the original was unserviceable. They were able to start work on the court that night.

By morning, the Airmen and several Philippine soldiers raised a new basketball pole, backboard, rim and net.

Master Sgt. Eduardo Ponting and Philippine Army Tech. Sgt. Renato Viador worked together on constructing the second pole with help from several of

Colonel Lowe said. “We had Air Force esprit de corps.”

The first leg of the competition was a downhill slalom run, fully equipped with a flak jacket, helmet and rifle. This was followed by a 100-meter sprint through the snow to a firing range, where an air gun was used to shoot targets. After sprinting back up the hill the third team member sprinted down for a dummy hand-grenade toss and back to the finish.

“Our goal was to go out and have fun and not get too worried about who won or lost,” Colonel Lowe said. “Mostly it was about making new friends and new connections.”

The event was hosted by the Austria contingency from Multinational Task Force North. The Austrians are the lead for European Forces here.

“It was the idea of the Austrians to have these games,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Gauster, Austrian public affairs. “It wasn’t about competition, but more about getting to know each other. In German we would say the ‘Olympic thinking’ is what’s most important, not winning. Just having fun.”

The Air Force team placed eighth out of 12 teams from 14 nations.



Operation Winter games participants receive a pregame briefing from the Austrian contingency. The three-man Air Force team competed against 12 other teams from 14 nations.